

DRAFT

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee, Council Chambers, 795 Mass Ave

November 9, 2016 - Minutes Taken by Joanna Vanden

Members present: Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Janet Mosley, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden.

Staff present: Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Michael Orr.

Guests: Joel Dashnaw

Housekeeping: The October minutes were approved. No public comment.

City Updates

Staffing Update:

Keith Cialino congratulated Michael Orr on his new position, Director of Recycling. Given this promotion, the department will post to fill the Waste Reduction Program Manager position, along with the Recycling Drop Center Monitor.

Recycling Advisory Committee – New Deadline:

The deadline for RAC committee applications has been extended to December 2nd. The committee is hoping to grow to 12 members and current committee members are encouraged to advertise this opportunity.

America Recycles Day Outreach

America Recycles Day Outreach – Tuesday, 11/15/16 – Michael Orr solicited volunteers to staff tabling efforts and distribute reusable bags.

Polystyrene Ordinance

Polystyrene ordinance has been in effect for two to three weeks. The Department is hoping to staff a new position to conduct outreach to businesses affected by the ordinance.

Discussion Topics

Subgroup Check-ins / Report-out/ Discussion:

Bulky Furniture Sub-group:

The subcommittee discussed the possibility of having the City's new zero waste consultant come to the regular RAC meetings, starting in December if at all possible. The group is keen to hear the consultant's planned scope of work and would like to know how bulk waste fits into the overall analysis. They also discussed continuing to publicize donation options that are available through the website and to supplement that list with new resources as applicable. Keith Cialino suggested that the sub-group develop a best practices document for promoting and facilitating yard-sales and city-wide swap events, and the group continued to brainstorm additional outreach mechanisms for promoting a potential year-end city-wide yard sale. If possible, the City Hall's lawn sign could promote this yard-sale by using a holiday theme, perhaps including the phrase "Are you in the giving spirit?" The sub-group agreed to work with Mike Orr to develop signage for a year-end city-wide yard sale, and proposed that the super-hero signage be reserved for the MA Coalition for the Homeless furniture pick-up partnerships. Lastly, the sub-group suggested that the department measure website traffic after the release of some of these outreach efforts to see whether or not they have an impact.

Single use / Reusables

The reusable subcommittee has focused its research on food service businesses and exploring creative ideas to work with them to reduce the use of single use or disposable items. Meera Singh has taken a closer look at the Green Restaurant Association, which provides different levels of sustainability certification for participating businesses. Grendel's Den is a Harvard Square restaurant that participates, so the group will contact them to see if promoting the Green Restaurant Association might be a worthwhile endeavor for the RAC in promoting re-usable strategies across food service businesses in Cambridge.

The subcommittee has conducted additional research to support the City's implementation of the city-wide polystyrene ban, which includes looking at case studies in the state of California and brainstorming different ways to reach out to businesses in Cambridge to replicate some of these best practices. The group will explore public policy measures for a 10 cent fee on disposable cups and has been trying to connect to the food policy initiative hosted at Harvard.

Outreach Ideas for Remainder of Year:

Mike Orr shared some recent success in increased participation in the North Cambridge composting program, and informed people about the upcoming America Recycles Day, taking place on November 15th. Mike also asked the committee for ideas to distribute leftover reusable bags and Rob Gogan suggested a campaign that would revolve around people getting caught "green-handed." For example, if someone brought a reusable mug to a coffee shop, there may be a reward for "getting caught green-handed" and that resident would be given a reusable bag to promote both reusables and the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. Other ideas included rewarding recyclers with a golden recycling box, golden forks for people who bring their own silverware, and promoting discounts for re-use. Lastly, the committee was reminded of the website, www.buymeonce.com, as a resource for promoting products that have lifetime guarantees.

Action Items

- **Apply to renew RAC term by December 2, 2016**
- **Bulky Furniture and Reusable subcommittees will continue their work per discussions above.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:27am